

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 FEA-01 USIE-00 ERDA-07
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01
H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5980

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENER, VE
SUBJECT: MINISTER HERNANDEZ STATEMENT RE: OPEC PRICE HIKE

REF: STATE 302169

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES OBERDORFER ARTICLE REFERS TO
HERNANDEZ'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS ON DECEMBER 8,
REPORTED PARA. 1, CARACAS WEEKA, DECEMBER 10
(CARACAS 14388).

2. HERNANDEZ'S COMMENTS WERE REPORTED IN EL NACIONAL
ON DECEMBER 9 AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE MINISTER HERNANDEZ
ACOSTA SAID WE ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT
(PRESIDENT FORD'S) APPEAL. WE WILL CONSIDER NOT
ONLY THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES; WE ARE ALSO MUCH
CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS A NEW PRICE
ADJUSTMENT COULD HAVE FOR THE ECONOMIES OF THE
THIRD WORLD. MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE
SITUATION IS NOT THE SAME IN ALL INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES.

NEVERTHELESS, HE (THE MINISTER) SAID,
WE OPEC MEMBERS CANNOT LOSE SIGHT OF OUR OWN
SITUATION. WE ARE USING UP A NON-RENEWABLE
RESOURCE. WE SHOULD ACT WITH THE GREATEST
RESPONSIBILITY. WE SHOULD PROTECT THE PURCHAS-
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ING POWER OF OUR PETROLEUM.

THEREFORE, HERNANDEZ ADDED, WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO FIND SOLUTIONS OF A GLOBAL NATURE IN THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE AT PARIS. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE VENEZUELAN CHIEF OF STATE, TO LINK THIS PROBLEM WITH THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS.

WE (THE REPORTERS) INSISTED ON KNOWING THE POSITION OF OPEC REGARDING THE DIRECT, PERSONAL APPEAL OF PRESIDENT FORD. THE POSITION OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE MEETING THIS MONTH REMAINS UNCHANGEABLE.

THERE ARE SUFFICIENTLY POWERFUL ELEMENTS, HERNANDEZ INSISTED, IN THE TOTAL CONTEXT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, WHICH OBLIGE US TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN OPEC PRICES. IN THIS, THERE IS A TOTAL CONSENSUS WITHIN OPEC. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT. THE REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AND HERNANDEZ'S COMMENTS WERE STIMULATED BY A WIRE SERVICE STORY (UPI) WHICH APPEARED IN THE CARACAS PRESS ON DECEMBER 8 REPORTING PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN.
VAKY

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